problems we are unable to take a positive decision as yet. Otherise, we are still very keen to do it.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: I am very glad to listen to the answer of our hon. Minister where he has stated that the Government realises the importance of the project and they are considering it. On January 15, 1986, I have received a letter from Minister of State/incharge Planning Commission stating that the proposal regarding Sethusamudram Shipping Canal project was examined in the Planning Commission. However, it was not found viable in financial or economic terms.

When this is the answer, I do not know how the Minister says that the Government realises the importance of this project. When I was the Industries Minister in Tamil Nadu, Sir, you were the person who found out the file from the shelf and wrote a letter to the Government of India about the importance of this. They have assured you in a letter that the Government of India would definitely take this matter into consideration. What is the reply of the Minister to this ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The Planning Commission has said what the hon. Member has said and this is the information with us also. But still Government is very keen and Gvernment has its importance in mind. That is why we are still...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Threat of Strike by the U.S. based staff of Air India

*248. SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA :
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India operations in the North American sector have been incurring losses and the airlines is facing strike threat by its US based staff ;

(b) if so, what is the loss suffered by Air India on the North American sector during the last three years stating the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what are the reasons for discontentment among the US based Air India Staff and what remedial steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Even though operations of Air India in the North American Sector have been generating surplus over Cash Costs. there is an overall loss on this sector due to high fixed costs. Government is not aware of any strike threat by U.S.A. based staff of Air India The profitability profile of the India U.S.A. sector for the past three years is as under :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1984-85	1983-84	1982-83
Operating Revenue	15823·98	14620·17	13850·29
Cash Costs	11908·00	10746·07	10562·57
Surplus over cash costs	3915·98	3874·10	3287·72
Profit/(Loss)	(63·00)	67·00	(52·00)

(c) U.S.A. based local staff of Air India have formed an Association and have put forward some demands relating to promotional avenues, class of travel, outstation allowance, leave encashment etc. Air India management has examined these demands and a suitable reply has been sent.

हिन्दी सलाहकार समिति

*249. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उनके मंत्रालय के सभी विभागों में हिंदी सलाहकार समिति का गठन कर दिया गया है और क्या इसकी साल में चार बठकें हो रही हैं ; और

(ख) क्या प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा दिये गये अनुदेशों के अनुसार 1985-86 का क्रियान्वयन कार्यक्रम पूरा हो जाने की संभावना है ?

शिक्षा और संस्कृति विभागों में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी) : (क) पूरे मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के लिए, जिसमें शिक्षा, संस्कृति, कला, युवा कल्याण और खेल तथा महिल कल्याण ये पांचों विभाग आते हैं, एक हिन्दी सलाहकार समिति बनाई जा रही है जिसके बाद उसकी बैठक आयोजित करने के लिए कार्यवाही की जाएगी ।

(ख) जी , हां ।

*250 [*Transferred to the 18th March*, 1986]

All India Medical Council

*251. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the law about the powers and functions of the All India Medical Council;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) what is the number of medical colleges functioning in the country which are charging capitation fee;

(d) what are their names; and

(e) what steps Government have taken or porpose to take to prevent the mush-room growth of medical colleges which are charging capitation fee?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed legislation will take into consideration the need for regulating the establishment of new medical colleges in any State and also of the fees to be charged from or in relation to, students of medical colleges banning of capitation fees and regulation of the admission strength of medical colleges etc.

(c) Twenty (20).

(d) 1. Sidhartha Medical College, Vijayawada.

2. Dar-Us-Salem Educational Trust, Dar-us-Salem, Hyderabad.

3. Christian Medical College, Hyderabad.

4. Sri Ramchandra College of Health Sciences, Porur, Madras.

5. P. S.G. Institute of Medical Sciences, P. S. Govindaswamy Naidu and Sons' Charities, Poolamedu, Coimbatore.

6. Medical College, Annamalai.

7. Rural Medical College, Loni.

8. Krishan Institute of Medical Sciences, Karad (Distt. Satara).

9. Amarawati Medical College, Amarawati.

10. J. J. M. Medical College, Davangere.